

Draft minutes for the ABAC meeting of October 21, 2015

Board members present were Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Phil Goff, Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller and Doug Greenfield. Scott Smith was absent. Also in attendance were Maggie Stanley, Elizabeth Shea, Officer John Costa, Rod Holland, and Joey Glushko,

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

COBWEB officer introduction and comments. Officer Costa introduced himself and told us his primary interest is with our outreach to the schools. Ron asked about the Arlington Police point of view about educating children in traffic and bicycle safety. Officer Costa gave us a summary of their current programs including distributing unclaimed bicycles and the school resource officer program and told us that the Police Department is willing to cooperate with us in any way we find useful. Christopher told him about the new Ottoson School Bike Club and proposed that we form a working group to formulate our program. Ron, Jack and Christopher volunteered for this group. Christopher will set up a meeting.

Joey then brought up the issue of moped parking. Officer Costa told us that mopeds are not allowed to park on the sidewalks which means that they cannot use most bicycle parking. He proceeded to define mopeds and scooters. Joey mentioned specific racks where mopeds are frequently parked. Lastly, Officer Costa told us that the Mass. Ave. redevelopment project is nearly done. Most of what remains is marking the pavement, which should take about a week. The entire project should be finished by the end of November.

*The minutes for the September meeting were accepted after some corrections were made.

TAC report. Scott was absent so this item was abbreviated. Christopher inquired if the Center crossing project is going to be implemented this fall. Joey told us that the project may be delayed until the spring. Christopher then asked if we could see the final plans before construction begins. We had a brief discussion about truck side guards and will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Safety issues—support for two State House bills. Several bicycle-related issues are winding their way through the legislature. We spent some time discussing the protection offered by the Vulnerable Road Users Bill. Doug felt that parts of this law—specifically the three-foot passing rule—would be unenforceable. Rod voiced his feeling that this law may be unenforceable but is needed as a deterrent. We did not discuss the other bill, the Bike Lane Protection Bill. Phil has written a letter asking the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to endorse these bills.

*We voted on a motion stating that this committee endorses the spirit of Phil's letter and that it should be sent to the BoS. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Rails-to-Trails Sign Program recognizing railroad history. This issue is about possible locations for a rather large sign outlining the railroad history of the Bikeway. Joey felt that we should select a couple of sites and allow the BoS to select the final spot. The working group proposed possible sites: next to the Bikeway at Russell Place, next to the Bikeway at Swan Pl., next to the Bikeway at Lake St., or opposite the Dog Park near Rt. 2. We decided to distill this list down to a couple of spots. We decided that ABAC favors the Thorndike Field site opposite the Dog Park, or, alternatively, the Lake St. site.

*We voted on a motion to submit the two possible locations to the BoS. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Bikeway signage. We discussed the policy for posting commercial or event signs along the Bikeway and designated a working group (Rod, Christopher, Joey) to finalize the policy.

Bike boxes at selected intersections. We discussed whether bike boxes should be painted at some intersections in Arlington. Phil told us that bike boxes are conceptually good but they must be very carefully placed. He feels that there are two reasons to place a bike box at an intersection. One is a high volume of cyclists and the other is right or left turn issues. We decided that the issue is worth discussing and that we should wait for the spring to determine if traffic flows along the redesigned Mass. Ave. warrant such interventions. We will continue this discussion at the November meeting.

2016 Winter Social. Christopher proposed a presentation by representatives of local bicycle committees. Phil proposed that we invite bike committees and advocacy groups from adjoining cities and towns. We decided that the tentative date for the Social is the first Tuesday in March.

Other Items.

Jack told us that Magnolia Park is being rebuilt. He proposed that we request some bicycle connections be included in the reconstruction. He also proposed that the Bikeway be restriped. Joey told us that the Town Manager supports our reapplication to the LAB for Bicycle Friendly Community status and she will contact the DPW about the restriping.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.